Texarkana Gazette

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TOURISM

The Oza

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Officialdom in the Ozark region tries these the "country bumpkin" image of the mountain people, but hillbilly blends with the give the visitor a rare sense of Americana.

In this Mid-America funland about 17 million found it easy to relax in 1969, and the number climbs each year. Tucked away snugly in a 38,000-square-mile area of northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri, the Ozark playgrounds comprise a vacationland of startling contrasts.

Near Eureka Springs, Arkansas, you sit under the stars on a rugged mountainside beneath the sixty-foot Christ of the Ozarks statue and watch an accomplished presentation of the Passion Play. A few minutes later, in town, you follow the sound of banjo plunking and fiddle screeching into a venerable hotel whose ballroom is in a cheerful shambles; strewn with decorations and whopping dancers.

In a matter of minutes, your shoes are likely to be off and you'll be mingling at an Arkansas barefoot dance. It's a typical evening, mingling the cultural, the religious and the backwoodsy in a wholesome Ozarkian good time.

The real attraction of the Ozarks is its ingenuous charm. This is real-life country, largely undisturbed by the slicker evidences of 1970 affluence. History buffs find themselves flashing back a century at every turn. Stone markers in graveyards, many of them more than a century old, attract visitors scribbling down dates and names. Harry S. Truman's birthplace is at Lamarr Missouri. This is Mark Twain country, too. A national forest named for Twain, near Ava, Missouri, offers a 25-mile drive across the crest of mountain ranges thick with deer and other wildlife.

Nine big lakes and countless rivers and creeks are filled with trout, bass, crappie, blue-gill, sunfish, muskellunge, pike, catfish and walleyes. For the hunter there are deer, wild turkeys, fox, coyotes, quail, dove, rabbits and squirrels. Some of the wilderness are virgin hunting grounds.

The Ozark peaks are jagged and rich in color. Harrison, Arkansas, is gateway city both to the Bull Shoals and Norfolk lakes region and is a focal point for scenic excursions. Another favorite mountain tour begins at Joplin, Missouri, heads south, makes a circular swing of the Boston Mountains to Fort Smith, then to Van Buren and back through the Ozark National Forest by way of Siloam Springs and Gravette, Arkansas. Then by the bluff-dwellers' site and Ozark Wonder Cave at Noel, Missouri.

Fantastic Caverns is the one for those who don't care for crawling. Jeeps travel the entire length of the cave in a 45-minute tour of subterranean fantasy. The old mingles with the new here on Saturday nights: a country music show is staged in a huge natural theater, its throbbing sound seeming to mase the calcite formations reverberate with, hill-country rhythm.

Marvel Cave Park and Silver Dollar City are consolidated in a 2,000-acre entertainment complex brought to life by a Chicago widow. This cave has 32 miles of passages already mapped, and a cathedral room larger than a football field and as tall as a twenty-story building. It was operated as a solo tourist attraction until 1960, when Silver Dollar City was built near the mine entrance — a restoration that now has 45 buildings.

The newest of the hoedown genre to join hands with culture and religion in this Bible-belt region is the new town of Dogpatch, U.S.A., nine miles south of Harrison, Arkansas. This year it begins its third season of "scenic tours to Skunk Hollow, Mammy Yokum's Grist Mill" and other geographic highlights of Al Capp's comic strip takeoff on this Ozark country.

A Shakespeare company presents "The Tempest" each spring at the School of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Missouri. A Fine Arts Festival beckons hundreds each summer to Belle Vista, Arkansas.

For the children, the Farwell Dinosaur Park near Eureka Springs is a standout. A sculptor and paleontologist have fashioned replicas of various prehistoric species including the brontosaurus and tyrannosaurusrex. Somehow, in the Ozark country, they seem a little closer to the present than in city museums.

— Carte Blanche
Travel Magazine

Dock Strike Ties Up English Ports

Queen Proclaims State of Emergency

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II proclaimed a state of emergency Thursday because of Britain's nationwide dock strike. The Conservative government alerted troops to keep vital supplies of food, medicine and the mail moving.

More than 40,000 longshoremen tied up the country's 40 major ports for the first time since 1926 and nearly 100 ships were caught with their cargoes only half moved.

Dockers in London and in some other ports cleared away perishables already landed.

Passengers so far were not affected. The Cunard line announced the Queen Elizabeth 2 will sail for New York Friday on schedule. Only cabinet baggage was permitted. Heavy luggage for the hold and passengers automobiles could not be loaded.

The state of emergency — only the fifth proclaimed since World War II — permits the government to assume special powers subject to the approval of Parliament, to deal with the crisis.

Home Secretary Reginald Maudling announced in the House of Commons that the government will seek the legislature's approval of the emergency measures Monday.

Employment Secretary Robert Carr desperately sought to bring dock employer and union delegates together in another search for a compromise. A union delegate said: "We are sticking by our decision and are prepared to stay out for as long as necessary."

Carr told the House of Commons he had set up a commission of inquiry with full powers to find a way of ending the dock tieup. He said the commission had been instructed to report back to him "with maximum speed."

The state of emergency proclamation was drafted for the queen's signature at a special Cabinet meeting Thursday morning. Informants said the Cabinet also instructed Defense Secretary Lord Carrington to select and alert army units for possible service on the docks to carry out "essential services."

The queen signed the proclamation at a privy council meeting shortly after her return from a royal visit to Canada. Such "orders in council" can only be signed by the sovereign at a meeting of the privy council, a body composed of top government ministers which advises the queen on state business and also acts as the highest appeal court of the Commonwealth.

Then Maudling left with the document and proclaimed it in the House of Commons.

The strike began at the end of Wednesday's day shift.

MISS TEXARKANA IN MISS ARKANSAS PAGEANT — Marsha Kaye Barnes, Miss Texarkana 1969-70, models a swimsuit fashion in the Miss Arkansas swimsuit competition in Hot Springs Wednesday. Miss Barnes competed in the evening gown competition Thursday and is scheduled to perform a Moorish cymbal dance in talent competition today in the Pageant.

WEATHER

Partly Cloudy, Thundershowers

TEXARKANA WEATHER — Yesterday's high, 95; low, 72. Rainfall, .06, for period ending 9 p.m.

SW ARKANSAS — Partly cloudy with slight chance of afternoon and evening thundershowers; not much temperature change. High, low to mid 90s; low, low to mid 70s.

SE OKLAHOMA — Clear to partly cloudy with showers and thundershowers. High, mid 90s; low, mid 70s.

NE TEXAS — Considerable cloudiness with temperatures and remaining on the warm side; chance of scattered thundershowers. High, 90s; low, 70s.

NW LOUISIANA — Partly cloudy and warm today and Saturday with widely scattered showers. High, 88-94; low, 70-76.

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Education Bill May be Vetoed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A compromise $4.4-billion education appropriation bill passed the House Thursday amid hints that it might be vetoed —if it reaches the White House in present form—because it would provide $452 million more than President Nixon requested.

The measure was sent to the Senate by roll-call vote of 357 to 30.

The Senate previously had boosted it about $800 million over the request, or an increase of $293 million over the original House bill.

The compromise measure retained two House-passed provisions designed to slow federal school desegregation efforts which had been knocked out by the Senate. The effect of the provisions is not clear, with some opponents saying they merely restate existing law.

Retention of the provisions in the bill, administration spokesmen claimed, would present no legal problems involving present policies.

But another House provision was dropped from the compromise because opponents said it might pose legal problems in dealing with school desegregation plans. This provision would have barred use of federal funds to implement any plan that denied students their choice of public schools because of race or color.

Our World This Morning

INTERNATIONAL

Peace Prospects Said Dim

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan voiced a gloomy forecast for peace prospects in the Middle East Thursday, predicting that the fight between Israel and its Arab neighbors would go on.

The next round, he continued, would take place "in the bunkers and in the skies in aerial battles with missiles and artillery and with the repeling of raids and attempts of invasion."

In an oblique reference to the Russians and their role in the conflict, Dayan said the Egyptians and their foreign advisers were trying to achieve victory over Israel, and "I don't believe this means peace."

ENEMY RETREAT REPORTED

Mauled Cambodian Units Ready For Fight

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Enemy forces may have pulled out Thursday from the mountain resort of Kiri Rom after six days of battle, Cambodian officers near the scene reported.

If the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops, estimated at 1,000, have melted into the surrounding jungle the battle for Kiri Rom, 50 miles west of Phnom Penh, is over.

Nevertheless, an assault force of four Cambodian battalions, between 1,500 and 2,000 men, prepared to retake Kiri Rom Friday. They include two battalions badly mauled in fighting Tuesday.

During the six days of fighting, the Cambodians were reported to have suffered more than 200 killed, wounded and missing. Enemy losses were unknown although one battalion commander claimed his troops killed 80 before retreating Tuesday.

This would be the seeming objective of the new enemy "meat grinder" tactic—to inflict demoralizing casualties on the shaky Cambodian government and then pull out when the government massed a big force for a counterattack.

The Kiri Rom mountain area, once favored by Cambodia's rich and influential as a cooling off spot, has no military value.

As the Cambodians assembled on the south to recapture Kiri Rom, their high command recalled 1,400 American-trained mercenary troops that were moving up the mountain from the east.

This further strengthened the belief that the fight for Kiri Rom was near an end. The recall of the mercenaries, Cambodians trained in South Vietnam by U.S. Green Beret Special Forces, suggested that the Cambodians wanted to enter Kiri Rom and claim victory on their own.

At Sem Reap, 185 miles northwest of Phnom Penh, Cambodian officers said Thai air force planes have begun air strikes near that city and the historic temple ruins at Angkor.

Officers said the first raid was flown last Saturday against a village nine miles southeast of Siem Reap. They said villagers told them the strikes killed an estimated 22 Viet Cong or North Vietnamese soldiers.

Military sources reported a second raid by Thai air force jets was launched the next day against a Viet Cong bunker complex near the village of Phnom Korm.

So far, Thailand does not admit to any direct armed participation in the Cambodian fighting. The Thais have provided the Cambodians with five T28 fighter planes and some clothing for troops.

Cambodian officers at Siem Reap insisted, however, that 12 Thai army and air force technicians arrived July 3 to set up ground to air communications. It was understood that the Thai air force would take over reconnaissance and bombing in northwestern Cambodia.

In South Vietnam, the battlefront continued quiet and only minor skirmishes were reported by allied commands.

The big sweep by nearly 5,000 South Vietnamese troops in the northern part of the country failed for a second day to produce any major contact.

In Saigon, U.S. headquarters reported that 72 Americans were killed last week, 11 more than the previous week.

This toll, up to last Saturday, plus at least 11 more deaths since then, pushed the number of Americans killed in the Vietnam conflict to 43,002.

The U.S. Command also reported that 729 Americans were wounded last week, compared with 463 of the week before. This brought the war's total of American wounded to 283,695.

South Vietnamese headquarters, in a report again reflecting increased combat by Saigon forces, said 421 government troops were killed in action last week, an increase of 52 over the previous seven-day period.

South Vietnamese wounded last week totaled 1,275.

MAESTRO FIEDLER CUTS UP — Photographer Bob Klein caught this expression on the face of maestro Arthur Fiedler Thursday during ceremonies in San Francisco celebrating the maestro's 20 years with the San Francisco Symphony "Pop" Orchestra. That's champagne being pured for Fiedler. (AP Wirephoto)

NATIONAL

Secret Meeting Revealed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and Guatemalan President Carlos Manuel Arana Osorio held a meeting here last month that was so secret the State Department won't even confirm it took place.

Agnew's own aides are equally silent when asked about the meeting, which was held shortly before Arana was inaugurated July 1.

One source said State Department officials have been "praying the meeting would go unnoticed" but he could not explain the reasons for the extraordinary precautions which, he noted, are especially puzzling since Arana represents a friendly country.

Diplomatic sources say Arana requested the meeting as a means of obtaining assurances from the Nixon administration he could count on its support after taking office.

TEXAS

Banker Says Flag Suit Backfired

DALLAS (AP) — A bank executive said Thursday that a suit against it for using a picture of the flag in its advertisements had backfired in his opinion.

Board Chairman R. L. Thornton Jr. said the bank has passed out all of its 12,500 free flags and 50,000 star-spangled bumper stickers.

"We could have given out 50,000 flags if we had them," he said.

The board chairman says he believes a complaint alleging the bank is illegally displaying the flag in its advertising sparked the run on the free flags.

ARKANSAS

Consolidation of Suits Wanted

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — A motion was filed in U.S. District Court here Thursday seeking to consolidate a suit filed May 12 with a suit filed last week by the Justice Department to force desegregation of nine Arkansas school districts.

The May 12 suit asked District Court to enjoin the state Education Board from granting money to segregated schools.

The motion Thursday was filed by attorneys for plaintiffs in the May 12 suit.

'FIGURES CAME FROM MEMO'

RLC Results Questioned

By LARRY POWELL
Staff Writer

John O. Wilson's figures concerning advancement by pupil in Texarkana's Rapid Learning Center project came from a March 4 memo concerning a "preliminary evaluation" of the program, Wilson said Thursday in a telephone interview from his office at the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C.

The man who OEO has picked up to head its $6.5 million rapid learning center program in 18 school districts in 16 states said, "I don't know where the memo came from, I only have a copy of it here."

Wilson had been quoted Tuesday as saying that students in the Texarkana Rapid Learning Center had experienced a 2.4 grade advancement in reading skills and a 1.9 grade advancement in math. He said those figures were based on the "preliminary evaluation" he read about in the memo.

He said the memo was apparently written by C.J. Donnelly, the Dorsett Educational Systems representative who was overseeing the Texarkana project until recently he was assigned to Albuquerque, N.M., to Martin J. Filagamo, the local director of the project.

Filagmo said Thursday that he has never sent a memo to Wilson. He said, "Of course, through the year, before we discovered this thing (alleged teaching to the tests), we released information concerning the program, but it would have been difficult to make any statements concerning the success of the program from the information we released."

Wilson said that despite any alleged situations which may have affected the program, "we (the OEO) have faith in the program. We would like to get the cleanest evaluation of the program, however."

The OEO official said he considers the Texarkana project "a demonstration rather than an experiment."

Complete evaluation of the Texarkana project, officials say, is due by Aug. 1.

IN IRON MOUNTAIN AREA

Census Taker Says All Counted

The lady who took the census in the Iron Mountain section of Texarkana, Ark., declared Thursday, "I didn't miss a single person in my area. I even went into a tavern to get some of these forms filled out."

Mrs. Martha Hinshaw said that she acquired a list of residences in the Iron Mountain area which she had allegedly missed from the Arkansas Model Cities office Thursday afternoon, then met with the three persons listed as being from those three residences. "Each of them remembered me," she said, "The three that were listed were counted."

A Model Cities spot check of the area reported that three of 24 homes checked had not been counted in the census. The list of uncounted residences in Iron Mountain included those of Mrs. Susie Sneak at 1501 Ray, Mrs. Dessie Lollis at 1302 Louisiana, and Mrs. Mildred Ellis at 2815 East 11th.

These three people, however, according to Earl Jones Jr., chairman of the Chamber of Commerce committee on the census, signed documents at the C of C Wednesday stating that they had not been counted in the 1970 census.

Mrs. Hinshaw said that she found during the census that the address listed by Mrs. Ellis as a vacant house, but that "I went down the street to where Mrs. Ellis was staying to make sure that she was counted."

Mrs. Hinshaw said she plans to contact the Bureau of the Census office in Pine Bluff today to see if she can acquire copies of the census forms turned in by the three persons who have claimed they were not counted.

Jones, however, says he is certain the census takers did a "good job."

"It is just inconceivable to me," he said, "That Texarkana has gained only 430 people in the past 10 years. I'm sure the takers did a good job, it's just a kind of puzzle we are going to have to work out."